

Minutes
Finance Committee Meeting
3:15 pm, January 8, 2013
First Floor-North Conference Room, City Hall

Present: Vice Mayor Esther Manheimer, Chair; Councilman Chris Pelly
Absent: Councilman Marc Hunt

Staff: Lauren Bradley, Jeff Richardson, Roderick Simmons,
Tony McDowell, Eric Hardy, Pat Liguori, Cheryl Heywood

Approval of Minutes

The committee approved the minutes from the 12/11/2012 meeting.

2013 Audit Request for Proposal Results and Recommendation

Mr. Eric Hardy, Controller brought the committee up to date on the status by stating that there were five proposals submitted and the five firms were reviewed and scored by a panel of finance staff. Items such as North Carolina auditing experience for similarly sized cities that have some of the same nuances such as similar service funds and business activities that the City of Asheville possesses as well as their audit plan, process and execution as well as their ability to generate our financial statements and CAFR by the October 31 deadline. After the scoring on those elements was done, the cost piece was factored in. The qualitative questions were given a weight of seventy percent and the pricing piece a weight of thirty percent. The firm that came out with the highest score was Cherry, Beckert and Holland. Their score was primarily due to their experience auditing the largest municipalities in North Carolina. They also addressed the concerns we may have about transitioning to a new audit firm. Based on their experience and these other factors, staff felt that this firm would best serve the city.

Ms. Bradley said that last year's audit cost \$95,000 and Cherry, Beckert proposal price is \$85,000 which is a big improvement in terms of what we have been investing in the audit services.

Ms. Bradley said staff is looking for the committee to approve staff recommendation to award the contract to Cherry, Beckert and Holland and then it will go to full council for adoption of the resolution.

Councilman Pelly asked how the scoring at the bottom of the tally sheet changed a little bit and what that reflects. Mr. Hardy said that he indexed. Basically he took the score of one hundred, that is the highest attainable on the qualitative piece and indexed off of that so there would be some parity between the two types of measures which are the scoring and the costing. The lowest cost is the one that was indexed.

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**UNC-A Foundation seeking a partnership with the City for development of
525 Broadway (Former Momentum site) as part of the Reed Creek
Greenway Corridor**

Mr. Roderick Simmons, Parks Director introduced Mr. John Pearce, Vice Chancellor of Finance at UNCA, representing the UNCA foundation. Mr. Pearce said he was there to ask council to consider a letter of support for a grant opportunity for the UNCA Foundation. The foundation is interested in purchasing the former Momentum site at 525 Broadway to develop as part of the Reed Creek Greenway. The letter of support is for \$75,000 toward the construction and design and also a future land swap to get closer to the creek. Mr. Pearce thanked council for the opportunity.

This item will moved to the agenda for the next full council meeting on January 22, 2013.